

Action Item

California Postsecondary Education Commission

Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee,
June 3, 2002, Meeting

MINUTES

Executive Committee

Meeting of June 3, 2002

Committee members present Alan S. Arkatov *Chair*
Carol Chandler, *Vice Chair*
Evonne Seron Schulze
Olivia K. Singh
Howard Welinsky

Other Commissioners and alternates present
Odessa P. Johnson
Robert L. Moore
Ralph R. Pesqueira
Rachel E. Shetka
Anthony M. Vitti

Call to order Chair Arkatov called the Executive Committee to order at 11:12 a.m.

Roll call Executive Secretary Judy Harder called the roll. All Executive Committee members were present.

Introduction Chair Alan Arkatov identified the newest member of the Commission, Anthony Vitti, as representing the California State University, replacing William Campbell. Ralph Pesqueira, alternate State University representative who was in attendance, was asked by Chair Arkatov to introduce Commissioner Vitti.

Mr. Pesqueira indicated that Commissioner Vitti had been a long-time member of the Board of Trustees, a former chair of the board, and is a business person from Newport Beach.

Commissioner Vitti thanked Mr. Pesqueira for his comments and expressed his interest in the Commission, citing the important work done by it and its staff. He commented on the important role that the Commission plays in providing an independent voice on matters of importance related to public policy and higher education.

Meeting overview Chair Arkatov then asked Executive Director Warren Fox to provide an overview of the discussion about the Commission's organization and structure of committees.

Executive Director Fox briefly commented on the importance of restoring the budget for the Commission, citing the fact that budgetary impact on the work of the Commission and its discussions is an important consideration. Executive Director Fox then reviewed the historical antecedents to the committee structure and Commission processes currently operative.

Commissioner Schulze identified her concerns with the current process and structure, including a desire to have a more informal and in-depth conversation and discussion with staff and committee members in advance of the full Commission meeting. She referenced the work and discussion of the Governmental Affairs Committee and how it often spends time to review and analyze issues that are a component of the legislative affairs agenda. Her desire is to have a similar opportunity for other Commission committees.

Commissioner Vitti reviewed the structure and processes associated with the California State University Board of Trustees, including the manner in which its committees operate. He indicated that much work was done at the committee level prior to advancement of an issue or matter to the full Board of Trustees. He commented further that members of the board who were not on the committee and who were not meeting in a different session often sat in on another committee's meeting to get a better understanding of the issues.

Commissioner Johnson said that there was a need for further discussion on matters that come before the Commission, and that she sensed that there are important policy issues that require more focused dialogue and analysis by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Moore drew attention to meetings of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. He reported the meetings were held in a manner similar to the Commission but that the difference is the board's discussion is more thoughtful and informative as a result of the need for members to be more informed. Essentially it is not a structural matter as much as whether or not the Commission members' need for information is being met.

It was concluded by the commissioners that they wish to see a modified meeting for July in which the individual committee meetings will be held beginning in the morning and finish their discussions on agenda and related matters prior to the full commission meeting which will follow. Staff indicated that such an approach would be undertaken.

Commissioners believe that this trial approach will be undertaken with the understanding that other modifications may be necessary with experience so that they can have the level of discussion and interaction with staff on issues before the Commission.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to logistics for the remainder of the day.

Adjournment The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.
